

# What Is Next For Roxana Marsh

Planning for the Future in a Post Clean-Up Present

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# Context

## Roxana Marsh Before

- Restoration started November 2011 and completed April 2012
- 108,836 cubic yards of Contaminated sediments were removed and replaced with sand suitable for habitat
- \$52 Million dollars were invested for this restoration along with the west branch of the Grand Calumet River



Contaminated sediment in Roxana Marsh is being excavated along with the invasive plant, common reed.



Roxana Marsh after contaminated sediment and the invasive plant, common reed, has been removed. The open water pond in the middle of the marsh provides migratory bird habitat and will help to keep common reed from returning.

# Vital East Chicago Community Initiative (VECCI)

## ● Goals & Objectives

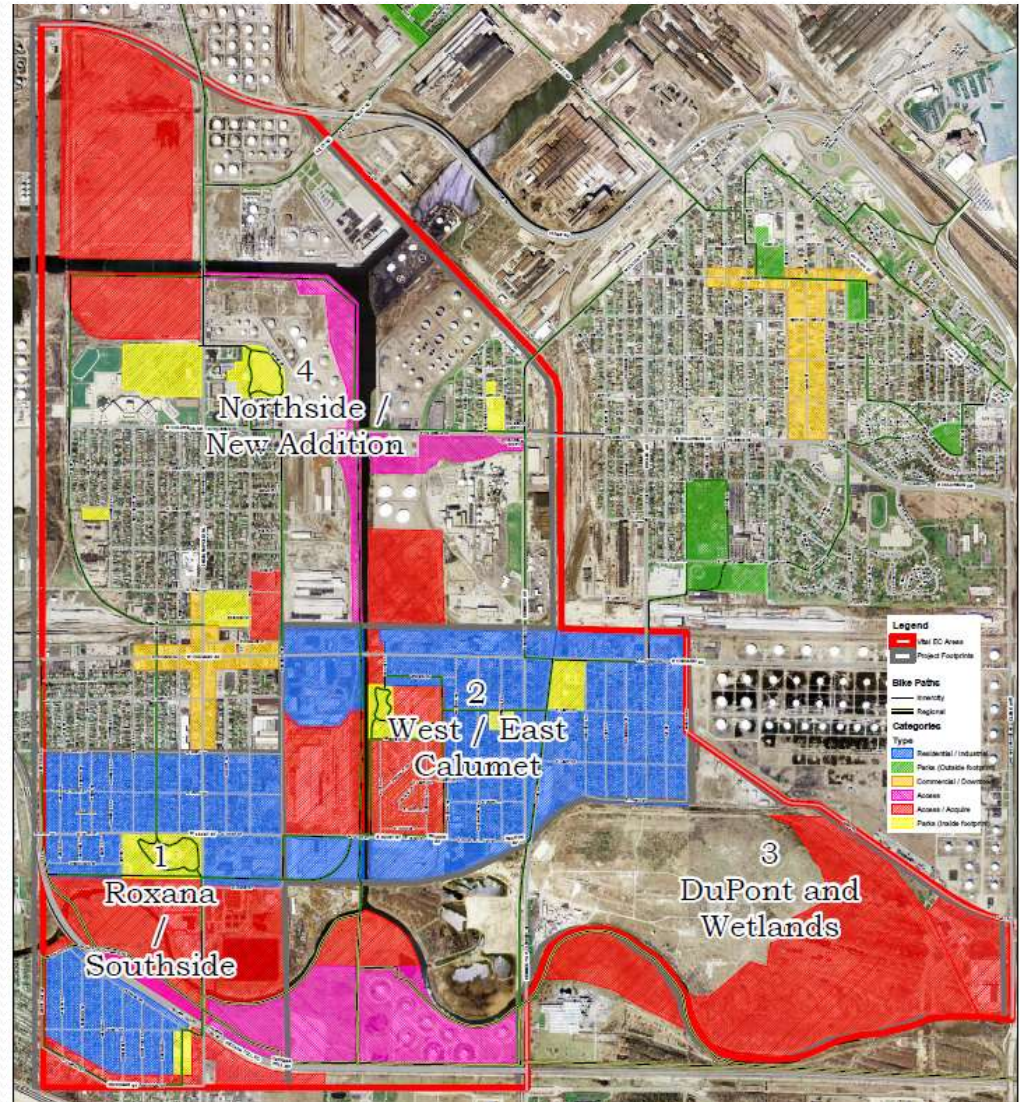
Goals & Objectives	Resources	Activities	Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Mid-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
Improve Transit Access Housing & Economic Development Creation of Mixed Transit Oriented Development	Volunteers Residents/Community Homeowner Incentives Façade Rebate Gaming Funds Bank Funding Programs Consultants EPA/State/Federal Schools, Faith Based, Local Entities, Non-for-Profits NIRPC CLC Funding (\$75k) Redevelopment	Neighborhood Profile				
		- Current Conditions	Survey of Commercial Parcel	Sub-Area Plan	Creation and development of Homeowner and Developer Initiatives and Incentives	Mixture of housing options within walking distance from the South Shore Train Station
		- Beautification of Properties				
		- Inventory	Land Use Study	Market Study	Reestablish the Businesses Community	
		- Windshield Survey				
	EPA/State/Federal Schools, Faith Based, Local Entities, Non-for-Profits NIRPC CLC Funding (\$75k) Redevelopment	Community Outreach	Public Charrette	Increased Signage and Way finding	Better accessibility to nodes of activity	Mixed Used Commercial Development
		Structured Communication between Stakeholders	EPA TOD Charrette	Collect Transit Ridership Information	Implement other modes of Transportation	Walkable Community
				Sidewalk Assessment and Upgrade Plan	Improve walking/Various transport Infrastructure	Increase Public Transportation in the Area
	Redevelopment Consultants City Foundations Parks EPA/State/Federal Waterway Management IDNR IDEM Nature Conservancy INDOT	Design Guidelines/Standards	Pedestrian Crosswalk Bridge	Completion of N-S Trail Construction	Connection to E-W Regional Trail System	Recreation and Educational opportunities associated with Roxana Marsh
		Informational Meetings Improve Gateways to Community	Strengthen Community	Improve Collaboration amongst Environmental Stakeholders & Educators	Create Partnerships with school, IDNR and familiarize with current programs	
		Study of E-W Trail Connection (Marquette Corridor)	NICTD to open Westside of Walkway	Design of Fitness Trail	Installation of Trailheads for Physical Health	Improve Public Health
	IDEM ECWM Army Corps GINPO/EPA Housing Authority Knights of Columbus	Identifying Stakeholders Identifying Waterway Areas that are being targeted for access/	Public Waterway Access Plan	Coordinate with EPA and Army Corps for initial stages of dredging, How to Plant a Clean-up	GINPO/ECWM Clean-up of waterways	Improve Accessibility of Water for Recreation Purposes
			Dredging Plan	How to improve water quality	Infrastructure Improvement leading to waterways	
	NIPSCO Foundations Engineering RDA NICTD URS NIRPC INDOT CMAQ TAP	Work with city and departments to create a lighting plan and security plan	Lighting Plan	Improve Lighting	Improve lighting and access way.	Public Safety
		Brownfield	Security Camera Police Routes	Increase Police Presence	Bike Police through hot spots	
			Brownfield Identification Program	Brownfield Site Assessment Economic Profile - Acreage/Infrastructure - Comprehensive site assessment/inventory	Brownfield Remediation Access RDA Funds	Repurpose and Reuse of Brownfield Areas



# Vital East Chicago Community Initiative (VECCI)

## • Goals & Objectives

- Mixture of housing options within walking distance from the South Shore Train Station
- Mixed Used Commercial Development
- Walkable Community
- Increase Public Transportation in the Area
- Recreation and Educational opportunities associated with Roxana Marsh
- Improve Public Health
- Improve Accessibility of Water for Recreation Purposes
- Public Safety
- Repurpose and Reuse of Brownfield Areas





# What's the Potential?

- Ball State University 2014

## Returning to nature

A major part of this initiative is the construction of a greenway that runs along the north side of the Calumet River to the south of the city. This greenway has the potential to be a part of a larger regional greenway system, connecting with the Hammond trail network. The greenway features an observation tower facing the river near Kennedy Avenue which looks out over marshland and current industry, as well as proposed phytoremediation sites. The trail also boasts an ecology center just east of the canal that depicts the history of the Calumet River and its surrounding marshes. This initiative also prioritizes the public use of Roxana Marsh. A proposed boat launch will allow canoes and kayaks to easily access the water. The initiative aims to transform the marsh into a major asset for East Chicago.



Roxana Marsh boat launch site.



The proposed Roxana Marsh boat launch site helps to engage all ages in the natural environment.



Boat docks provide residents with an entry point to natural systems.

# What's the Potential?

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## Concept Focus

This initiative consists of two major ideas: returning to nature and understanding the water system within East Chicago. East Chicago has several water features (the canal and Lake Michigan, for example) that have been isolated from the public for years. One part of this initiative calls for the return of these resources to the people of East Chicago through the development of greenway trails along the canal and providing access to the lakefront. It is also important to understand how these water resources work within East Chicago and the larger area. This initiative proposes to educate about these systems through interactive natural phytoremediation and water filtration both on the greenway and vacant properties.



Observation towers are added along the water and greenway to help educate the community of the ecological beauty of East Chicago.



This area of the plan focuses on reconnecting people with nature through the addition of observation towers and phytoremediation.

## B1 Understanding the Water System

This initiative focuses not only on reconnecting people to nature, but also prioritizing education about natural systems. This will be accomplished through displays and destinations along the greenway, including examples of phytoremediation and natural storm water management, as well as the nature observation tower and ecology center. Empty lots within the neighborhoods of East Chicago also provide an opportunity for displays that show how stormwater is treated at a residential level.



Bird observation huts are placed along the Calumet River and Roxana Marsh to bring the community closer to nature.

# What's the Potential?

- Ball State University 2014



The Grand Calumet Greenway acts as an interpretive pedestrian and cyclist trail system focused on urban water systems and ecological restoration. With 3.4 miles of paved two-way trail connecting to 4 loops of hiking and mountain biking trails, the new greenway is a recreational and ecological singularity in northern Indiana.





# What's the Potential?

- Ball State University 2014



## 1 Roxana Marsh

Roxana Marsh is a unique opportunity for greenway users to witness a wetland restoration. Interpretive signage illustrates the function and benefits of wetlands in terms of urban water quality improvements and wildlife habitat.



## 3 Confluence Bridge

The Confluence of Indiana Harbor Canal and the Grand Calumet River is an important feature of urban hydrology within East Chicago. They are mutually dependent for flow. The Grand Calumet shares pollution with the canal and vice versa.



## 5 DuPont Research Center

The DuPont Research Center is a multi-functional ecological/industrial system. Fields of switchgrass and experimental native plants phytoremediate contaminants on site over a phasal long-term plan. Then they are harvested and studied for their potential as biofuel.



## 7 Dune Singletrack

The DuPont Research Center is a multi-functional ecological/industrial system. Fields of switchgrass and experimental native plants phytoremediate contaminants on site over a phasal long-term plan. Then they are harvested and studied for their potential as biofuel.



## 2 Roxana Bridge

Roxana Bridge is an opportunity to employ a local artist to create a site specific, culturally unique, and sculptural pedestrian bridge. Bridges function as attractions on their own, generating sense of place and promoting quality of life through connectivity.



## 4 DuPont Bridge

DuPont Bridge is a transition node from wetland restoration into a new industrial system. The contrast is powerful, and the focus is on building a new resilient and progressive economy.



## 6 Wildland Restoration Lab

The Wildland Restoration Lab is an education visitor center and greenway amenity. Its purpose is to educate visitors on the native ecology of East Chicago and the dune restoration underway on its formerly industrial site.



Above is an illustration of how people can use the Grand Calumet Greenway. Runners, cyclists, and nature lovers are all encouraged to enjoy scenic trails.



# What's the Potential?

- Ball State University 2014



**Rideau Canal During Winter**

Source: kyvacanada.com

The above framework outlines the lot's available resources and how the city can utilize them and new resources to develop the site. For example, by adding an outdoor amphitheater, the city of East Chicago will gain a valuable multipurpose entertainment venue. The left image shows how canals can be used even in cold months. Freezing the canal over for activities such as ice skating could be an option the city chooses to investigate.



**Passerelle Mornay Bridge**

Source: eastchicago.com

This is an example of a proposed pedestrian bridge, located at point **B** on the site plan. The bridge will link the new development to Carrie Gosch Elementary across the canal. It can also serve as an art piece, reflecting on East Chicago's industrial heritage.



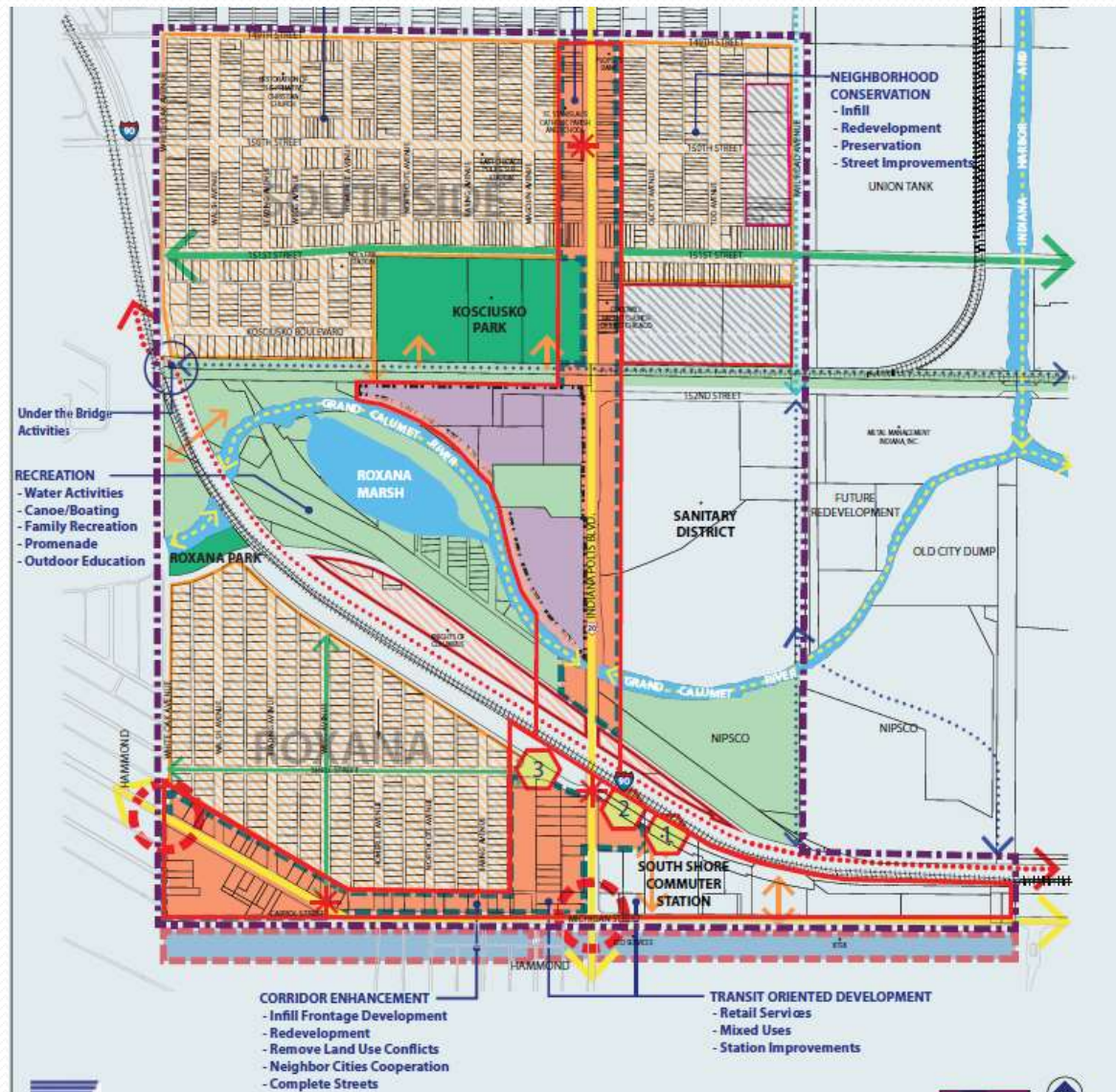
**Empty Industrial Warehouse**

Source: loopnet.com

Above is an example of a potential "maker space" within a maker district, found at point **C** on the site plan. An industrial warehouse can be filled with different equipment for various artisanal industries, such as furniture builders, microbrewers, inventors, metal fabricators, seamstresses, software engineers, and other skilled workers.

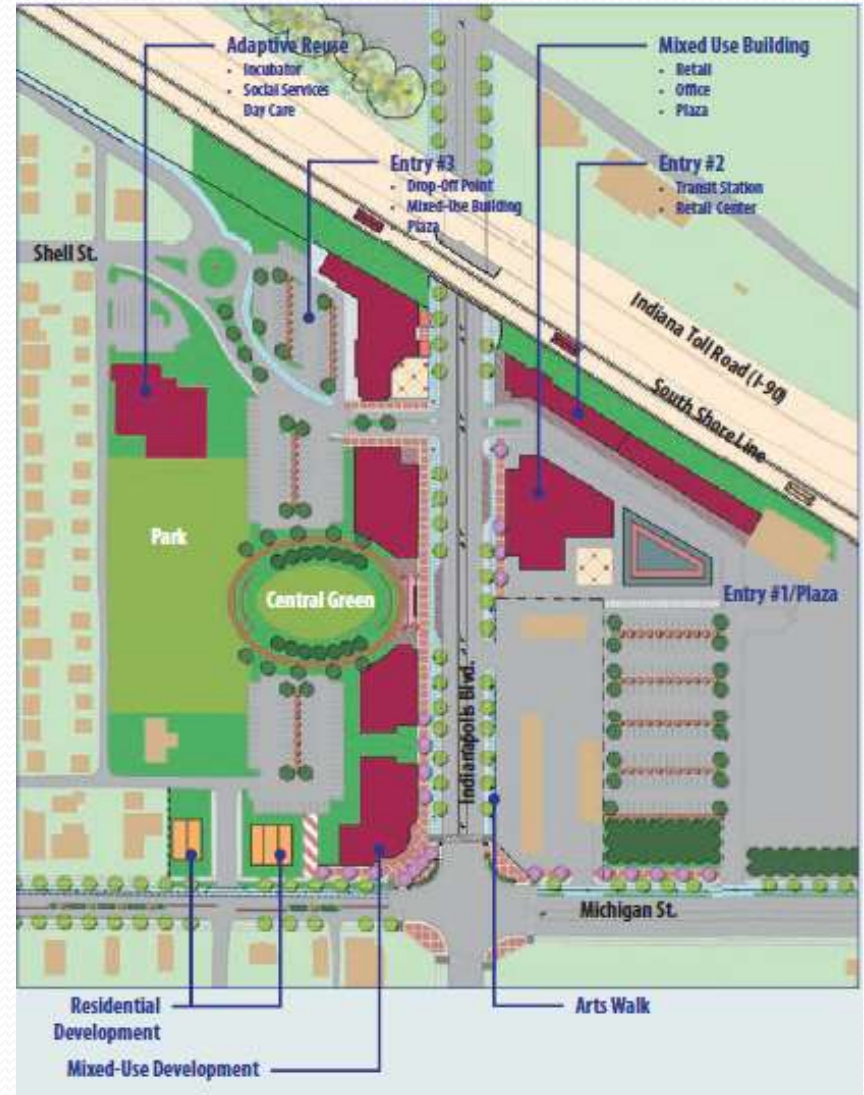


# What's the Plan





# TOD District



# TOD Gateway & Connection

## Concept

- New residential infill
- Complete street with street landscaping and bikeway
- Transformation of street into an attractive walkable residential corridor





# TOD and the Roxana Marsh

Activities Under the Viaduct



Outdoor Exhibit Area



- Farmers Market
- Playground
- Arts Exhibit

## Key Principles

- An Urban Oasis
- A new kind of park for East Chicago
- A park that can evolve over time
- A Park with Creative and Conservation Identity
- Reactivate the Riverfront
- A Learning Landscape
- Water year round

Boardwalk



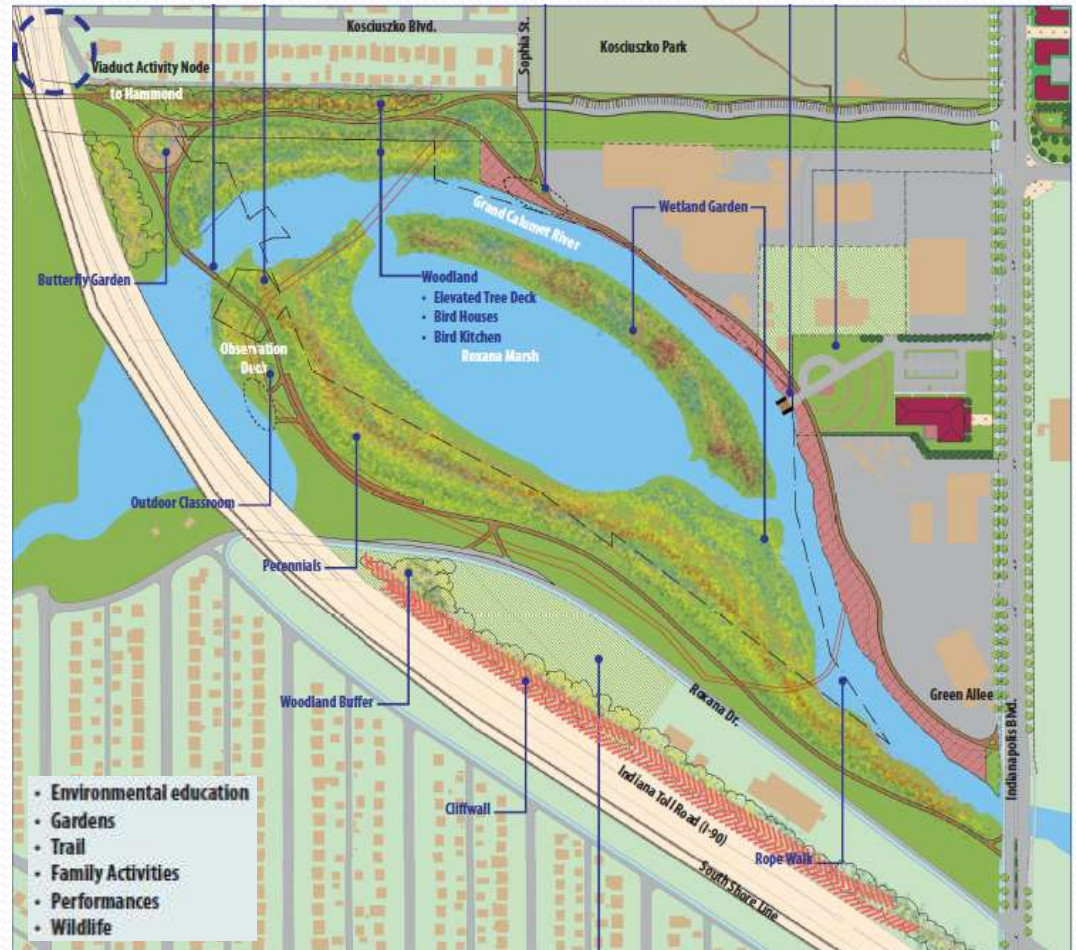
Promenade



Habitat Restoration



Boat Launch Area





# Funding and Partnerships

- Awarded Grants of about \$2 Million for bike trails connecting the Roxana Marsh with the Marquette Greenway and the South Shore Train Station
- Future Partnerships with the Knights of Columbus, Club Ki-Yoga, NICTI, Nature Conservancy, Paddle Association, DNR and the City of East Chicago
- Future Request for Development from the RDA to fund the TOD Plan that will connect the Marsh with Various Transportation Methods and Developments
- Acquisitions of properties within this corridor





# Q&A

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